



Home Again

Revitalizing Communities One Home at a Time

Ivy City – Special Project

Mayor Anthony A. Williams and his administration are committed to promoting neighborhood revitalization and increasing homeownership opportunities in the District of Columbia. One critical challenge is the pervasiveness of vacant and abandoned residential properties, which create public safety problems and convey negative images of communities. In January 2002, the announced the creation of Home Again, an initiative designed to strengthen District neighborhoods by transforming vacant and abandoned residential properties into homeownership opportunities for residents of all income levels.

For over two years, Home Again has been diligently working to acquire vacant and abandoned property in Ivy City, one of the initial 5 target areas. To date, 31 properties have been acquired by the District and additional 8 properties are in the process of being acquired by friendly sale, tax foreclosure, or eminent domain.

A Catalyst for Change

With the development of 39 properties in Ivy City there is a potential to create over 60 new homeownership units. This major investment can be a catalyst for positive change in the neighborhood. To ensure that the development is comprehensive and sensitive to community issues, a group of residents have formed a task force to work with Home Again throughout the redevelopment process. Home Again and the Ivy City Home Again Task Force are working together on the following issues:

- 1) Creating homeownership units that are affordable to households with varying income levels, including existing residents of Ivy City.
- 2) Developing design guidelines for property development.
- 3) Developing a strategy to provide homeownership counseling and services to existing residents interested in becoming homeowners.
- 4) Coordinating resources from other District agencies including complementary investments in infrastructure, community facilities, and the public realm.
- 5) Increasing neighborhood services to deal with quality of life issues.

Roadmap for Change

On October 22, 2005, Home Again and the Task Force will be hosting a community workshop and design charette. The event is intended to gather information from Ivy City residents, property owners, faith community, and other stakeholders on the new housing development plus other needed public and private investments. The input will then be used to create the Request for Proposals (RFP) for the redevelopment of the Home Again properties by our pre-qualified developers. The RFP will be released in late Fall 2005 and by January 2006 Home Again will select a developer(s) for the project.

Additional information about the Home Again Initiative can be found on our website:

www.dcbiz.dc.gov - click on the Home Again link